



California Public Utilities Commission

505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102

Media Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Terrie Prosper, 415.703.1366, news@cpuc.ca.gov

PUC COMMISSIONER TO HOLD CONFERENCE ON TELECOMMUNICATION ISSUES

SAN FRANCISCO, March 9, 2005 – The California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) will hold an all day conference on California telecommunication issues, led by Commissioner Dian M. Grueneich. Commissioner Grueneich, the first Commissioner appointed to the PUC by Governor Schwarzenegger, set this conference as an opportunity to hear the issues facing the telecommunications industry in the face of multiple changes in the industry.

WHAT: The forum will consist of panels of consumer groups and industry experts who will address the following areas of the telecommunications industry:

- New Regulatory Framework
- Changing Competitive Environment
- State and Federal Jurisdictional Issues
- Universal Service and Public Purpose Programs

A detailed agenda is below.

WHEN: Friday, March 11, 2005, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

WHERE: PUC, Auditorium
505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco

The conference will also be accessible via audio webcast at www.cpuc.ca.gov and through a listen-only call-in number: 1-877-345-0241, passcode 92105.

Individuals or organizations not represented on the scheduled panels will be invited to sign up for an opportunity to present brief comments.

If special arrangements are needed, such as foreign language interpreters, please contact the PUC Public Advisor's Office at 415-703-2074 or toll free 1-866-849-8390 or TTY 415-703-5282 or

1-866-836-7825, or by e-mail at public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov at least three days in advance of the event. Sign language interpreters for the hearing impaired will be present for the entire meeting.

For more information on the PUC, please visit www.cpus.ca.gov.

###

CALIFORNIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS ISSUES CONFERENCE AGENDA

Friday, March 11, 2005

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 pm

Toll Free Call-in Number: 1-877-345-0241, passcode 92105

Webcast @ www.cpus.ca.gov

9:00-9:15 Introductions and Opening Comments by Commissioner Grueneich

9:15- 9:25 Introduction to Current California Telecommunications Issues
Jack Leutza, Director, Telecommunications Division, PUC

- Recent History
- Current Policy Issues

9:25-9:30 Office of Ratepayer Advocates' Perspective
Dana Appling, Director, Office of Ratepayer Advocates

9:30-10:45 New Regulatory Framework (NRF)

Brief History of NRF - Mitch Wilk, Managing Director, Wilk &
Associates/LECG

Overview of NRF Issues - Charles Christiansen, Supervisor,
Telecommunications Division, CPUC

- Past CPUC Decisions and NRF Audits
- Highlights of Phase III
- How Recent Developments May Change the Path Forward on NRF Phase III

Panel Discussion - Historical perspective and key NRF issues for the CPUC to address in 2005 and beyond

Panelists:

- Denise Mann, Branch Chief, Telco and Consumer Issues, Office of Ratepayer Advocates, PUC
- Tim McCallion, President-Pacific Region, Verizon
- Charlie Born, Manager, State Government Affairs, Frontier Communications
- Bill Nausbaum, Attorney, The Utility Reform Network, TURN
- Dr. Lee Selwyn, President, Economics and Technology, Inc.

Questions and Answers

10:45-11:00 Break

11:00-12:15 Changing Competitive Environment

Events and Issues Driving Changes in the Competitive Environment

- Michael Amato, Branch Chief, Telecommunications Division, PUC

- New Technology
- Intermodal Competition
- Broadband
- Consumer Protection
- Industry Consolidation

Panel Discussion - How are current developments changing the nature of telecommunications service and the competitive environment? What is the role of the PUC in ensuring adequate consumer protection while also fostering competition and economic growth? Where do we go from here?

Panelists:

- Lesla Lehtonen, Vice President, Legal and Regulatory Affairs, California Cable & Telecommunications Association (CCTA)
- Terry Murray, Murray and Cratty, LLC
- City and County of San Francisco (TBA)
- Sarah DeYoung, Executive Director, California Association of Competitive Telecommunications Companies, (CALTEL)
- Dick Severy, Director of Public Policy, MCI

Questions and Answers

12:15-1:00 Lunch

1:00-2:15 Jurisdictional Issues

Overview of Current State and Federal Responsibilities and Key Jurisdictional Issues - Helen Mickiewicz, Attorney, Legal Division, PUC

- VoIP and Other Advanced Services
- UNE-P
- Telephone Number Conservation
- Telecommunications Bill of Rights Jurisdictional Issues

Panel Discussion - What are the key delineations between State and federal jurisdiction? What are the strengths and weaknesses of each jurisdiction? Is dual jurisdiction an option? What should the PUC do in the face of jurisdictional uncertainty?

Panelists:

- Michael Day, Outside Counsel, Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association, (CTIA)
- Chris Murray, Director, Governmental Affairs, Vonage
- Ed Kolto, Senior Counsel, SBC
- Helen Mickiewicz, Attorney, Legal Division, PUC

Questions and Answers

2:15-3:30

Universal Service and Public Purpose Program Issues

Existing Public Purpose Programs and Issues Facing the Programs - PUC Staff

Panel Discussion - What are the goals of these programs and are they still necessary today? What changes may be needed in the programs? What options are available for future funding? What role should the state and the PUC take? What is the federal government's role?

Panelists:

- Michael Katz, Director, Center for Telecommunications and Digital Convergence at the Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley
- Phil Kaplan, Chair, Telecommunications Access for the Deaf and Disabled Administrative Committee
- Rose Johnson, Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, AT&T

- Susan Brown, Attorney, Latino Issues Forum
- George Gundrey, Senior Program Manager Community Technology Center, Program CompuMentor

Questions and Answers

3:30-3:55

Public Comment

Opportunity for individuals and organizations not on panels to sign up to present their views.

3:55-4:00

Closing Comments - Commissioner Grueneich